EVILS OF LOOSE DISCIPLINE.

18 to 30 cents, respectively.

This is no new story in reference to the discipline of the State prisons. It has been growing worse for years. Go through the Albany Penitentiary, and not a prisoner will lift his eye as you pass him at work. Go through the State prisons, and they stop and stare at you from the time you enter the room until you leave it. A visitor recently went through one of the prisons, and noticing several convicts lennging about, asked why they were not at work. "They've struck!" was the reply. And the strikers went on with their lounging undisturbed. Occasionally there is an incident of a graver character. Within the past two years there have been two murders by convicts in Auburn Prison, both of which must have been the result of lax discipline. The first was the climax of a quarrel over a song-book, and the judicial investigation of the second showed that nearly every convict was allowed to carry a knife.

large and growing deficiency in the sonnal ac counts of the prisons is just Micawber's trouble over again-the receipts are too small and the expenses are too large. Why the earnings make but a slender showing has been perhaps sufficiently indicated; the looks are no less important. The great opportunity for fraud and extravagance is in the purchase of supplies, though this seems to have been carefully surrounded with a number of safeguards. The contract system for furnishing supplies was abandoned nearly forty years ago, and has not been in use since, except that at Auburn the flour and coal are contracted for at the end of every month, proposals being received on the last day the month for the ensuing month. All other supplies are now purchased in open market by the warden, and for the perpetration of fraud the counivance of three persons is necessary. The dealer from whom the purchase is made must swear that the articles are sold at the lowest market rates, and that he has not offered or gives or prom ised anything of value to effect the purchase. To warden swears that the goods were bought at fair cash prices and paid for in cash, that he has no pecuatary or other interest in the articles purchased, and that no person has any in his behalf; that he received no pecuniary or other benefit the refrom in the way of commissions, percentage, or presents, or in any other manner whatever, directly or indirectly," &c., &c. A similar cath is taken by the storekeeper who receives the goods when they are brought into the prison. The plan of this eath was evidently to make each

of these men a check upon the others, but it is easy to see how perfect collasion could be established between the three. There is little reason to doubt that collusion has often been established, but the frauds are so petty in detail that it will doubt less need careful and laborious investigation to dis cover where they are and who have perpetrated them. In former years Inspectors have been charged with receiving commissions on purchases, and there have been instances where wardens have been detected in carrying on a large business with themselves, charging the State 40 or 50 per cent more than the number rate for anophies. In one wardon's necounts, a long time age, a deficiency of 100,000 pounds of beef in the amount charged and paid for was discovered. The sumais of the State prisons are filled with frauds of this description, though often much less respectable in size.

As a further check upon the expenditures, the storekeeper is required to send each mouth to the accompanied by an estimate for the ensuring mouth. This carlil perhaps to enable the Controller to de tect dustances of excess in purchases and the life but it has not prevented in some cases the payment of the same bill three times over, each payment being larger than the one before. As is excly seen, it is in the larder that must of the leaks are to be found. Large members of convicts are placed on the sick rolls and are allowed beapital food who are as well as their less fortunate follows, who are without money or rich friends. There seems to be no room for doubt that physicians have made money by giv ing perdilentes of sickness to convicts in good bealth. At least that was ex-Inspector Kirkpatrick's conclusion when, on taking charge of one of the prisons, be found that 120 pounds of ment were being use in the hospital every day, while there were but seven men sick on cots, and numerous invalids were walking about it apparently the best of health. Wardens, His said, have also father into the habit of formish. ing their own tables from the prison kitchen, and are known to have used convict labor and State ma-

terials for their own private purposes. One great source of expense to the prison, and another result of their palitical character, is the overabundance of employes and the consequent swelling of the pay-roll. This is an evil which can scarcely be remedied until the State prisons are taken alto gether out of politics, except so far as they become necessary to accommodate politicians. To show the contrast in this respect between the State prisons and those erected by the counties, I quote figures from the minority report of Mr. Kirkpattick, made last year, but which failed to receive its due share of public attention, owing to the fact, Mr. Kirkpatrick says, that his associates garilled it, suppressed the important portions, and submitted the mangled remainder as the report of the whole Board. This report shows that while the Albany Penntestiary with 816 convicts has in all, officers, keepers, matrons, guards, &c., only 22 employes, Kings County with 600 convicts has but 24 officers; Onondaga with 186 convicts, 9 officers; Monroe with 225 convicts has 16 officers, and Eric with 316 couviets has 16 officers. Auburn, on the other hand, with 1,182 convicts has about 75 officers, of which 43 are keepers; Sing Sing with 1,285 convicts has about 96 officers, of whom 48 are keepers; Clinton with 552 convicts has 53 officers, of whom 19 are keepers. At Chinton more keepers are necessary in proportion than at any other, since the prisoners are scattered over a large inclosure when at work.

A DEFICIT OF HALF A MULLION. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STATE PRISON INSPECT-

ORS-GROWTH OF THE STATE PRISON DESICIENCY IN THE YEARS-MISMANAGEMENT AND WASTE-LOSS ON MALE CONVICT LABOR IN TWENTY-NINE VEARS-ONE PENDENTIARY THAT PAYS.

(FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.) ALBANY, Jan. 8 .- No more abundant proof of the necessity of retrenchment and reform in these institutions, and no better illustration of the truth of the strictures made above could be given, than the new report of the Board of State Prison Inspectors. rs. Eura Graves, M. R. Platt, and George Wagoner, just submitted to the Legislature. Many of the interesting figures given below have been compiled with great labor from that document, inasch as the Board seem to think they have made a report such as is required by law when they have coded with some ungrammatical and superficial

collated figures and undigested facts. First, it may be well enough to give the record of losses by the State Prisons in the last ten years. This is the humiliating list, as it stands in the Gov-

rnor's mess	nge:			
In 1866 In 1867 In 1868 In 1869	\$388,138 00 366,874 79 512,547 74 595,774 45	In 1873	\$465,881 597,289 588,537 545,549	06 42
In 1870 In 1871	461,304 99 470,309 23	Total8	4,992,207	19

This table shows that the annual deficiency grew from \$388,138 in 1866 at the average rate of nearly \$70,000 a year until 1860, and that showing then a onsiderable improvement, it mounted up again from 1870 to 1873, reaching in the latter year the enormous figure of \$597,000. The total is nearly \$5,000,000. In some years the deficit was really greater than appears from these figures, there being unexpended appropriations at the opening of the year, and in other cases smaller, where money remains in the form of permanent improvements. Probably the two things equal each other in the long run. In the two years that have clapsed since that time, the deficit has decreased only \$50,000. For the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1875, with which this report deals, it is \$545,000. At this time there were in Auburn prison 1,312 convicts, in Clinton 553, in Sing Sing contractors, they yet obtain 30 cents, 35 cents, and 1,616, in all 3,481. The deficit is in detail as fol-

lows:	THE DEFE		2000	
Anburn Chinton Sing Sing Miscret, expenditures	328,638 13	Faralage, 876,935-62 133,446-25 158,596-64	195,191	88

Total \$914,528 18 \$168,978 51 \$545,549 67 including \$28,144 50 for transportation.

A table covering the same number of years as that just given from the Governor's message, taken from the report of the Warden of Anburn Prison, throws considerable light on the regularity of its deficits. This shows the average earnings and expenses of a male convict in Auburn Prison for the last ten years, and is in itself one-half at least of the whole story of State Prison mismanagement and

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND EXPENSES.
Years each convict, each convict.
Vear anding Sept. 30, 1866 \$137 49 \$184 48
Year adding Sept. 30, 1807 141 25 174 30
Your ending Sopt. 30, 1868 132 73 167 74
Year ending Sept. 30, 1860 135 57 178 67 Year ending Sept. 30, 1870 126 70 178 47
Year ending Sept. 30, 1870 126 70 175 47 Year ending Sept. 30, 1871 129 80 172 42
Year ending Sept. 30, 1872 121 45 171 62
Vers and my Spirt, 30, 1873 121 48 100 83
Year ending Sept. 30, 1874 79 95 165 66
Year ending Sept. 30, 1875 53 69 152 93
A glance of the eye down the first column shows

that the average carnings of a convict during the past year have been but little more than one-third of what they were ten years ago, a disparity which annot be wholly due to the difference between war out peace prices, and the depressed condition of trade. The other column shows that the expenses maintain almost their old figure, and that the average carnings of a convict at Auburn during the year have been but little more than one-third of the amount actually spent to support him. This average includes, of course, producers and non-producers AUBURN PRISON FAR FROM SELF-SUPPORTING.

The report of L. E. Carpenter, Warden of Auburn

Prison, deserves commendation not only be wase it is the most intelligent and detailed report made from any of the prisons, but because it states the general condition of the prison, and with much apparent frankness draws a picture by no means encouraging. He shows that the prison is scendingly further off than ever from being a self-apporting institution. The contract carnings have been small, and the deficiency is consequently large. The num-ber of men employed has decreased, and the price of their labor along with it. While the average number of men confined in the prison during the year ending Sept. 30, 1875, was 1,261, but 600 were workng on contract, 661 having been non-producers. The average price of the men employed on contract was less than 40 cents a day each, while the cest of supporting each convict was 41 cents 8 mills per day, showing, in the words of the Warden, "that if

every man confined here carned on amount equal to the average contract price new received, the institution would not be self-supporting." The cost of keeping the nour is a reduction of 2 cents per day on each man from the figures of last year. The contract, which employed 80 men at 60 conts per Some precision should be unde for convicts sendar, expired January last, was renewed for tenced for life, whose conduct has been good in 50 conts each per day, expired July 1, and the contractors would only continue on being allowed to The Legislature should create an assistant Board 25 man. Forly-two cents per day, it seems is the highest contract price now paid in Anham Prison. A tool contract, which expired July 20, 1875, was only contract price now paid in Anham Prison. A tool contract, which expired July 20, 1875, was only contract price now paid in Anham Prison. A tool contract price now paid to be contract to the Covernor at paid price now paid to the contract price now paid to the Covernor at paid price now paid to the Covernor at paid price now paid to the Covernor 61 cents per day for fifty men for five years, taude April 1, 1873, was apparently so unpachiable that the contractor was unable or unwilling to pay for the convict labor, and the contract was annulled

in January, 1875, and the machinery and tools sold to satisfy the claim of the State. It should be added to the statement of the cost of supporting ach convict as 41 cents 8 mills per day, that this figure includes building and repairs and all other expenses incurred. Notwithstanding all this, the Warden asserts that the daily labor of the men on contracts has been largely increased, probably meaning in length of time, and "the quality of the work produced much improved." He believes that when business revives, and confidence among business men is renewed, more of the idle men can be employed and the deliciency can be largely reduced. But he says frankly that the State Prisons can never become self-sostaining nuder the present management. He suggests removing the prisons from polities, or rather politics from the prison, and placing at the head of each of them a suitable man, 'clothed with power to appoint his subordinate officers, and privileged by the Legislature to employ the surplus labor on State account." With those changes the Warden thinks that Auburn Prison, at least, might be made not only self-sustaining, but productive of considerable revenue to the State. As one practical step toward reform, he suggests a new gradation of the keepers and guards, putting one keeper, at a salary of \$100 per month, over each 100 convicts, and making all others guards at \$60 per month, with the understanding that guards may be promoted for merit and keepers may lose their positions for want of it. Mr. Carpenter gives in another

> convicts werking on contract. The results are as Average month y earning of each convict on con-

part of his report an interesting series of averages in

regard to the earnings and expenses to the State of

tract.
Average monthly earning of each convict in prison
Cost of each convict per month
Cost of food per man per month.
Cost of food per man per day

It must be borne in mind that these gentlemen who carn by long and assiduous labors a triffe over \$9 a month are the producing class! These are the 600 producers; there are besides 661 non-producers who live upon their more industrious brothren and the State. At Sing Sing the proportion of the uncurplayed seems to be very much smaller, 504 of the risioners working on contract, 301 on State manufactures, 540 on State labor, which includes service factures, 540 on State labor, which includes service about the prison, as well as work on buildings, &c., and the prison, as well as work on buildings, &c., and 142 are unemployed. At Cliuton 373 work on the prison, and 142 are unemployed. At Cliuton 373 work on pand 142 are unemployed. State manufactures, 155 on State labor, and only 25 | property

suggestions a great, cumbrous mass of mostly unrunning expenses. They are as fellows: BUNNING EXPENSES. Clinton.

\$52,263 89	\$90,471 54	\$72,736 46	Salaries
35,424 94	76,408 91	******	Entions
3,803 89	1,754 57	******	Stationery
875 66	8,343 58		Convictmileage.
582 52	2,400 87	******	Furniture
11,489 22	3,511 01		Hospital, &c
892 45	29,080 34 7,360 38	A . FO 00	Cioching
1,851 16	14,015 96	3,158 23	Building, &c
.,,,,,	14,015 80	******	Lights and fuel.
	3,640 27		Hay, straw, and
4,630 03			Stock and mate-
******		8,472 01	Contractor's de- posits refund'd
10,941 59	43,981 03	106,477 80	Ordinary sup- plies Misoclinneous
\$123,155 85	\$250,972 06	3192,844 50	Total
******	NGS.	EARNI	
Clipton.	Sing Sing.	Auburn.	
******	\$78,005 00	\$67,710 20	Contract
******	15,335 19	1,605 50	Miscellancous Convict's depo-
*****		6,117 73	sils
128,870 50	*****		Sales of mater'l.
***** 070 50		-	

Total \$75,433 43 \$83,406 19 \$128,870 50 The totals in the latter table hardly agree with those in the Governor's message, owing to certain allowances for interest, &c., but the difference is not Among the expenditures of Auburn Prison, the item of ordinary supplies is equivalent to a number of items under each of the other prisons.

If there were no such thing as experience, one might suppose that in cases where the convicts worked for the State solely, their labor costing the State nothing but their support, and that cost not being reckoned against them in the account, they might make a favorable showing. But here is the record of the past year at the Westchester Marble and Lime Works, which are connected with the prison at Sing Sing, and owned and run by the State, and the account leaves out of consideration entirely the cost of supporting the prisons:

Expenditures. \$53,789 51 Receipts 43,131 71 HEAVY LOSS AT CLINTON.

At Clinton Prison the manufacture of iron is car ried on in the same way. Here the scale of expenditure is greater, and so is the loss. Again omitting the cost of supporting the convicts, the account is

ŧ	Chillin & Diremor		Miscellancous	\$40,303 0
1	Wood. Coal	. 44,105 64 31.2 4 18	To'texp'od'tures Earnings	8165,914 88 12×,870 50
ļ	Lime & brick, &c	7,086 53	1.005	
ł	Warden Mol	at of the	latter prison in	

dwells principally upon the fact that the depres in the price of material manufactured by the convicts has largely diminished the receipts. The de crosse in the price of unils amounts to \$28,365 60 on the year's manufacture, and the price of iron has risen from \$35 to \$10 a ton against \$60 to \$65 a ton the proceeding year. A rich vein of ore has been discovered upon the lands surrounding the prison, which are the property of the State, which, it is thought, will yield sufficient ore to supply the works of the prison and save the payment of a royalty on the iron used. It is easily noticeable that neither the Wardens nor the Inspectors ave mything to say of the discipline of the pris ons at the present time. The people will have to wait for the investigators to find out about that, and perhaps about the honesty of some of the

The Board of Inspectors, virtually a retiring board, ingamuch as its political composition was to e pherod by the accession of a Democrat in place ef a Republican, make various recommendations to the Legislature. The following is their language: The law should be so greenled as to authorize and direct all the cloths and clothing and books and shoes name and used by convicts to be reade by them in the power, or at each prison or prisons as in the judgment of the ideal of hamseless would be for the interest of the state; and that none of the reticles used for clothing, etc. for the convicts should be made or furnished outside of the prisons.

of the prisons.

The prison have should be so named d as to allow the Board of Inspectors to classify the prisoners in the according to the prisoners in the according to such matter as shall by them becomed best for the State and the reformation of criminal and the prisoners of criminal prisoners. In all cases where the convict has conducted him-

self well in prison, his length of imprisonment should be determined by the law as it now is, and not us it existed at the time of his scutence, giving prices paid for convict labor show, however, a him also the benefit of the existing commutation marked decrease from those of lost year. An axis law.

years for the same number of men but person and who have given evidence of pentlence. d a reduction of 18 cents each per day upon the | whereny some indocument could be held out to them, former pries, making the rate 42 cents, while an ad- and some large created in the minds of isoscent ditioned number of 50 men was let at 40 cents, a still lower figure. A collar contract, for 50 men at to society, under certain solutory and reformatory

s office, and then all three of the Inspectors should sit all the priceous together once in three mouths group their said terms. Yo person should be sent to the State Prison for

stealing property or money of less value than \$100, but should be punished in the perifectiony or county but should be punished in the periteritary or county juil, as in the opinion of the Legislature would be the least expense and best calculated Lo reform the offender, and that the repetition of the crime should be provided by additional supersonment in said penticulary or county juil and not in State Prison.

Of these recommendations, it is not perhaps necessary to say much. Some of them seem judicious, and other not. It is easy to see that a auditiade of arguments could be advanced against the sugarious that can hasbeefor remain in charge of me

of arguments could be advanced against the sug-restion that each inspector remain in charge of one of the prisons during his whole term. With a good inspector it would doubtless work well, but with a bad one it would work badly indeed. However, these sugressions are of little moment, in view of the certage passage of the Constitutional Avendment by the Legislature sweeping away the whole of the system of State Prison government at a blow. This review of the condition of the State Prisons could lead by the legislature of the state Prisons could lead by the condition of the State Prisons could lead by the condition of the State Prisons to be largest of the prisons, this is a table from the Warden's rejort, showing the results of the male

Warden's report showing the results of the male convict labor for the last 29 years, the debit column giving the deficits and the credit column showing three years-a good while age-when there was slender balance:

20 A I.V	CONVICT LA	BOR AT SING 31	ino.	
Dr. 1947	\$11,065 58 45,668 64 18,717 45 99,864 71 23,966 00 25,866 00 14,068 88 14,636 56	1867	\$121,061 128,644 86,860 71,860 122,561 245,142 160,743 178,626 167,572	45
1857 1858 1855 1900 1902 1803	43,983 66 51,50 81 58,75 68 45,213 58 41,554 75 54,861 96	Total	\$1,931,524 h, \$8,248 12,166	79 26 20
1864 Potal fose on the t	94,555 c4	Total of Sing Sing	\$23,322	56

"Note. - The earnings, expenditures, and balance of the West-bester Marble and Lime Works are not included in the above able for the years of 1874 and 1875.

The shameful condition of our prisons cannot better be exhibited than by a contrast of their returns with those of the Albanians are considerably prooder than of the Legislature. Labor here is let out by contract, and the plea of the depression of trade is as good for Albany as it is for Sing Sing. What are the results? The earnings of this prison during the year ending Oct. 31, 1875, were \$107,793.77, and the expectations \$79,022.94, leaving a gain of \$28,776.83. Part of this has been used to enlarge and remain the prison, and there is yet remaining Sing 56 work on contract, 35 on State manufactures, 30 on State labor, and 8 were memployed.

The ranning expenses and the earnings of all three prisons are given in an itemized form below. It should be said that this is not a complote record of Piteons there is no reason why the State Piteons there is no reason when the State Piteons there is no reason when the State Piteons the Pit LIFE IN PARIS.

LETTER FROM ARSENE HOUSSAYE. VICTOR HUGO AND THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL -A DINNER-TABLE SERMON -- AN ETCHING OF GOYA-THE ATHEIST CLUB-THE HYPOCHISY OF PREE THINKING.

FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] Paris, Nov. 1 .- We were dining yesterday at Victor Hugo's. Four of us were believers and theists-not speaking of the ladies, who were all too elever to be infidels. Victor Hugo, of course, was among he believers.

"To believe in God is to believe nothing," said one of he atheists.

"To believe in God is to believe everything," cried Victor Hugo; " it is to believe in the manite, and in one's nortal soul. I will preve it to you." His face was bright with a heavenly halo. You know

he was born with the century. His face is crowned with white hair, but it is the volcane under the snow. His eyes shine like burning coals; his brow is arched ike an Olympian's; the nose is refined, with distended nostrils; the mouth is eager and smiling, still full of valtant teeth; the chin finishes a profile designed after the laws of articlic grammar. It is a well made head on a robust body. By robust I do not mean enormous. He has not the stature of a giant nor the torso of a Hercules. But he is a man of steel with no sign of old age about him. He has all the nguity, the suppleuess, the case, and grace of his best years. He is now enjoying his third or fourth youth; I do not doubt he will see the century through.

"I feel in myself," he continued, "the future life. am like a forest which has been more than once cut down. The new shoots are stronger and livelier than ever. I am rising, I know, toward the sky. The sun shine is on my head. The carth gives me its generous sap, but heaven lights me with the reflection of unknown worlds. You say the soul is nothing but the resultant o bodily powers. Why then is my soul the more luminous chen my bodity powers begin to fail I Winter is on my head and eternal Spring is in my heart. There I breatle at this hour the fragrance of the lines, the violets and the roses, as at twenty years. The nearer I approach the end, the plainer I hear around me the immerial sym-phonics of the worlds which invite me. It is marvelous yet simple. It is a fairy tale and it is history. For half a century I have been writing my thoughts in prose and verse; blatery, philosophy, damma, remaine, tradition, satire, ode, and song. I have tried all. But I feel I have not said the thousandth part of what is in me. When I go down to the grave I can say like so many others. 'I have finished my day's work, but I cannot say 'I have finished my life.' My day's work will begin again the next morning. The tomb is not a blind after; it is a thoroughfare. It closes on the twinight to open with the dawn. I improve every hour because I love this world as my father nd, and because the truth compels me as fi compelled Voltaire, that human divinity. My work is only a beginning. My monument is bately above its foundations. I would be gled to see it mounting and mounting forever. The tairst for the infinite proves infinity. What do you say of that, Messicars Atheists in ay of that, ressions athersts P
"I say you are a wonderful man,"
"I am not a wonderful man, I obey my soul. My soul

nas its destiny and obeys unknown laws."

'It obeys the laws of creation," and the atheist. "If on should suddenly have a handache, night would come were your soul, and you would feel that it was the creature of your brain. Here, for instance, is the coffee. Take some, as I do, in this pretty Japanese cup, and your blood will be quickened, and your wit livelier, and for an bour you will be a greater pool than ever."

"Don't talk such nonsense, my witty friend. I never trank coffee nor champagne. Why do not those who take these atimobalts write officer my verse or my prose I" It is because nature has not so well fashioned their

There I have you," said Victor Bugo. " What is na-

"Is is an occult force," said the nthelat. "There are no occasi forces; there are only laminous laters. Occasi force is chaos, the laminous force is fied. Man is an infinitely little copy of God; this is glory snoughfur man. I am a man, an invisible atom, a drop in the occas, a grain of sand on the shore. Lattle as I am, I feel the God in me, because I can also bring foun out of my chains. I make books which are creations. I can say this eithout beasting, for I have no more pride than a coral lassed in his rest, no more than the smallest bird which joins in the amyor-oil bymn. I am nothing.

Here lies Vistor Hago-on atom, a possing echo, a
fighing cloud, a ways which lays the shore. I am nothing,
but let me live all my intane lives; let me continue
my work tagen; let me scale in coming agas all the
hights, all the perils, all the layer, all the agoales. Who units ay that one day, after thousands of ascents, I shall not, like all men of good wall, have conquered a place in

Linest admit that Victor Hogo, who said all this in his ardent and vivid speech, allowed a little raillery to appear at the corners of lels it see. But I give you a dist

were already in existence. By way of pastine he writes a poun every day, an ode, or a legical, or a sean, which are morvels in thought, in designity, and in style. I do not know what he is execute for the past and in style. I do not know what he is execute for the past and in style.

sid not percaps convince the atheists, but he charmed them, and proved their nothingness in the face of his when the myrions of stars were singing their posmad tion of immortality.

There is an ciching of Goya which has more than ones trightened me in my hours of doubt. It is that where he supresents a dead man reasting the stone of his grave to rice on the wall of the constery, Sada! Neda! ing-a word neare terrible than that of Daule over the door of Roll. Nothing in death! Annihilation under the grave stone, a door which closes and occus no more, on examplished in the darkness of the teem. Is no theism? Nothing beyond the grave-neither soul, nor light, not God.

But have not all those whom you have lost also raised the cover of their graves to say to you that they have found God, and that they are waiting for you? The soul is the radiance of God, said a Christian philoso-pher. But the athese convinces that the soul does not exist, because there is no God. Do you know what atherese are? They are free thinkers, all the more free fession, they profess atheism. Some of them have ne-quired the art of free thinking, as others learn diducing and never find fiddles, or leave the art of loving and never find a sweetheart, or learn the art of government and never get a portfolio. They imitate Descartes in sponging away everything and putting nothing in its Descartes said, I think, therefore I am. Those gottle-men would have trouble in proving their existence by his process. Formerly atheism was the privilege of a lew philosophers who had adsread Lineurus; but of late it has taken possession of those who do not read at all. They are told that God is a crestion of men to frighten children. After so many revolutions against the kings of this world, it seemed necessary to make an end of the Unfortunately, all these atheists who have so sum

rily dethrough and buried the Deity, still believe in Him. Deny it as they may, they feel His presence before them. And the more they assail Rim with their idle wrath, the more they fear Rim. I do not know an aiheist but believes in God. Therein lies their punishment, and the possibility of their salvation. God has thrown into the infinite a grain of dust which he has endowed with His intelligence. He has said, "Let there be light," and light was. But never since the world was made have there seen seen men so determined to deny the light as now. Formurly the Titans revolted against the gods; now it b the dwarfs. It would be farelual, if it were not so sad.

There is now in France a new stratum of freethinkers in the time of Pierre Leroux the grandsons of the Ency elopedists and the great-grandsons of the Epicureans and Spinozists baptized themselves freethinkers with a little water from the Jordan and a little more from Charenton. They discussed the dark points of Catholicism, but still preserved a certain respect for the Godhead. , But to-day it is fashionable for the freethinkers to say that the Deity "is no more than the Jupiter of the opera; Ha thunders are no more than the rattling of sheet-fron, and His beavens are no more than a decection of Indigo and Prussian blue." Voltaire said, "If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him." These later Vol-turians would say, "If God existed, He ought to be civ-

There has been a good deal said about the Athelate Dinner. I know all these atheists, or rather I knew them all, for more than one has by this time found out the elernal truth. In the first pince, that famous dinner was pover called The Atheists' Dinner. It was simply " tire Friday dinner," and the majority of the participants were by no means atheists. It is tuo there were some

among them who used the weapons of philosophy and science to decree inanity, as if Science and Philosophy were not the two most visible supports of the idea of God. But these were superstitious fellows who threw sait over their heads when it got spilled; who refused to sit thirteen at table; who only consented to dine on Friday because one must dine every day, but who would not have stepped on board ship on Friday. One of the most terrible of them wore a medal of the Virgin around his neck. Another had a Holy Pamily over his bed. The President had himself buried as a Doctor of Atheism, but his enemy, Balzac, on that

day would have cried once more Sainte Bérus!

A skeptic said to me yesterday, "I don't care about the kingdom of heaven. It will do for the poor in spirit. But Mérimée, Sainte-Beuve, and Gavarni would have sold their share in it for a mess of pottage." If you would take their word for it, all three of these men wer athelsts. But athelson was their counterfelt money. They never used it themselves. It has been said of Jean Jacques that he would have done better to die without his confessions. The same repreach cannot be made to Mérimée, who went mute to his grave, saying there was no hereafter. The memoirs of Sainte-Beuve have been published. The life of Gavarni is in press. Will the last

thoughts of Merimée be published also ! I was well acquainted with all three of them, in their see ond youth and their last horizon. They played at athelam so as to be regarded as serious men by the groundlings. Sainte-Beuve went down without drum or trumpet. Mér imée decamped with a little holy water of the court. Gavarni took the high road of the Church, but without knowing his way. Gavarni said, "I don't believe in m soul two cents' worth." He considered death the "end of the chemical reaction." Why this belief in the void in this man whom God had marked so plainly with His image? Why this officement of the soul, when his soul is still visible in his works? Why this degradation of his great personality? He did not believe two cents? worth in God or his soul. This was the sum it formedly cost to cross the Acheron. Two cents given to a poor man in Christian charity might avail for salvation. Perhaps Gavarni had a great surpuse on high in finding the soul be had lost.

No such surprise awaits Victor Hugo, for be has never lost his soul. It will not be found among the herd of scure inflitels like Mérimés und Sainte-Beuve, but in that luminous palace of his kindred of all the ages. Hou Dante, and Shakespeare. Ansene Roussars.

PLYMOUTH AT YALE.

DR. BACON GIVES SOME HINTS FOR MRS. MOULTON. THE MITHOD OF DEALING WITH OFFENDERS-

ADMONITION AND EXCOMMUNICATION—BULES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.

New-Haven, Jan. 8 .- In his regular course of Scholnary lectures, the Rev. Dr. Bacon has come to the method of church discipline toward effenders. The topics of the lecture were from a small manual cattlied "Ecclesiastical Polity. The government and communion practiced by the Congregational Charches in the United States." It was compiled by a committee of which Dr. Baron was chairman, ex-President Mark Hopkins, Profs. Park of Andovey, Harris and Fisher of this Seminary, President Schrehild of Oberlin, the Rey. Dr. H. M. Storrs of New York, and other leading elergymen and laymen, were members, and was published in 1872. It is as much outhority as any polity can be to the Congregational Churches. Extracts below from it are shown by quota-

tion marks. Following is a synopsis of the lecture.

Why is the church required to indict concure upon offenders! The answer is: "The censures of the circurch are appointed for the prevention and removal of offenses, and the recovering of offenders; for purging out the caven which may infect the whole lamp; for vindicat ing the honor of Christ and of His Church, and the pro-fo-sion of the Gorpol; and for preventing the displeasure of God that may justly fall upon the church if they suffer His covenant to be profuned by notorious and ob-stinate offenders. Consure in the church is of two sorts -admonition and excommunication." We have only these two grades. The church says to a man, "We find you are smilty of an offense." Then it admendshes ident.
After that there is only this soleran step of excommuni of which the clearch can take notice is an offense against Christ, against Gost, against the church and Christian profession, and the church takes notice of it, not for the sake of righting the wrong, or the man who comella the erroug, but for the sake of vindicating the honor of the gospel and scenting the peace and pucky of the church A public offense is one that has become public. A prithe moment if becomes public property. The proceeding acadest a public offense is just the same as against one acalest a public offense is just the same as against one private, only in the former case there may be a consultation amour the monitors of the church, or on the part of the standars committee appointed to look after these paints. They are to proceed according to the royal pencept of Christ given in Matthew, Avid., 15, 16, 17. It is not the right way, or the Courceptional way, or the Christian way, all longs it is the Presbyterian way, to make the caused the prosecutor. Common fame should not be made the ground of an accusation. No matter how pubwe with you, and then if he returns to hear you, bring it

notic teets, a more authorized proceeding is nullborized individual established, or los the effect of private scientification by make Lolice of the morthlying of his sin and the archip of his son and the archip of his son and the archip of his son in the day of the Lard Jesus, as well as for the vindlestien of the gospol which are has distanced. Yet no offender may be quasared without the lard his operations of help heard." Suppose a state and the operations of help heard. Suppose a firm a gained the State, aversier, for noticine, and that the offender has been contricted, with no possibility of his introcence, and only avealts the execution of the southers. Is that man to die in the common of the southers is the time of the church and the hist art of a prison chaptain forward a conformed erinthal is to advise the matter of the church and the hist art of a prison chaptain forward a conformed erinthal is to advise the manufact of the church and the hist art of a prison chaptain forward a conformed erinthal is to advise the historial and the charter is converted without possibility of mistake, the church sending trained or inner, or admirer, and the offender is converted without possibility of mistake, the church seed not go through the long nucess of admention. If an offender under sendence of the law should repeat, that is a question netwern from and God. The church cannot require propertience of the law should repeat, that is a question netwern from and God. The church cannot require propertience he such case, and it does very much harm for it to refuse to natice such great effenses. The shale many guity should except than that che in the church should affer, but it is different in the church. If the church have in required to except than that can innocent should affer, but it is different in the church. If the church have now deal suffer. We don't hold the Roman fartholic flow of exceptioning to the part of the church as mit the church as will be church to the church as will be church to the church that the church that the church that the church that profuse and sc

On Dec. 31, 1875, there were 2,492 men on the police force. The total number of arrests for the past your was 91,163, 66,168 being males, and 24,995 females. The nationality of the largest number was Ireland, 36,992; next Germany, 9,137, and next the United

States, 5.984 white and 1,589 colored. There were 676 arrests for burglary, 1,319 for grand larceny, 161 for obbery on the highway, 168 for receiving atolen goods, 21 for arson, and 70 for homicide; 810 were convicted. 72 discharged, 31 were delivered to other authorities, 1 became State's evidence, 1 committed suicide, 2 died efore trial, and 226 cases are pending. Of these prisoners. 13,761 were under 29 years of age, and 7,121 were over 13,761 were under 29 years of age, and 7,121 were over not 36,673 were married and 54,456 were single; 33,680 were able to read and write, 143 only rend, 7,305 could neither read nor write. Three persons have been hanged, 2 were sent to State Prison for life, 7 for 20 years each, 5 for 18 years each, 6 for 15 years each, and 12 for 10 years each. To the House of Detention 390 persons were committed and 672 were discharged. There were a 111 lost children reported. There have been 3,843 charges preferred actuals monoters of the force, 148 have been distributed, and 2,308 officers were fined. The Rurean of Street-cleaning has disposed of 585,612 loads of asless and garbage. There are 156 persons on the 16c framewore real, of whom 9 are on phane. The property delivered by the soveral peccinets, detective and court

squade to the Property Clerk during the past year amounted in value to \$1,068,518. THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

DESENCE OF LOBBYISTS OWING TO SPECIAL LAWS

BEING FORBIDDEN-THE STATE FINANCES.

PROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

HARRISBURG, Penn., Jan. 8 .- The General

Assembly of Pennsylvania was at one time notorionaly the most corrupt body of the kind in the country. Now the Legislatures of some other States that could be men-tioned, might well take pattern from it. If put in contioned, might well take pattern room is. If put in con-trast with the body which meets at Albany it would be a shining light of honesty. This is not because there has been any notable improvement in the character of the lawmakers. Their average intelligence and of the lawinances. There are no interpreted and virtue is about the same as that of their produces sors, but they are so hedged in against temptations by the new Constitution that it is very difficult for them to go astray. The member who comes to Harrisburg to make money, and puts bimself in the market, finds no buyers, for the reason that special legislation for corporations, localities, and private inter terests are either positively probibited by the organic law, or made so difficult of passage that lobbyists and there is no longer any profit in their trade. Thus the Legislature may be said to be constitutionally hopest. For the first time in many years the session opens with no lobby whatever. The members of the two Houses and the cierks and other officers are the only arrivals. The last session was also subject to the restrictions of the new Constitution, but the election of a United States Senator brought a throng of outsiders. Now the hotel-keepers mourn the "good old times" when the great railroad corporations sent their "attor-neys" here with thousands of dollars to spend in looking after their interests, and when the chiefs of the lobby lavished their easily-carned money in riotous living. There are no more champague suppers or jovial card parties. Cheap boarding bouses are well patronized, and members pride themselves on their economies, and

compare notes with one parther as to how much of their

\$1,000 salary they will be able to save. With ordinary prudence it is generally agreed that a member ought to

The most important work for the Legislature to do is to rearrange the revenue system of the State as as to provide the treasury with funds enough to meet the generni appropriation bills. The money raised from taxation is amply sufficient to pay the expenses of the Government, and leave a handsome surplus to be applied toward extinguishing the State debt, but so large a som goes into the stuking fond that there is a dettelency for general pursons of over half a million dollars a year. There are only two ways of meeting the deficulty: new taxes nord be levied, or the annual payments to the sinking fund must be reduced. Neither party is willing to it crease taxation. Last year, when the embarrassment first made itself felt (it grew out of the repeal of certain traces in 1873;—the Democrats refused to allow the sinking fund to be touched, and as they controlled the House,
nothing could be done, and the Lexishian adjourned
after finding appropriations amounting to \$515,000
more than the treasury could pay. By thus continuing
an appeared defect in the treasury the Democrats looped
to gain a pear of the commonwealth were to a bad condition. They failed, and are now ready to join the Republicans in some practical measure for mercaning the
general revenue fund. The Governor asks for legislation
to divert from the sinking fund one-third of the proceeds of the tax on comperations, and this appears to be
the best way out of the difficulty. There would still to
money consider roing into the fund to extinguish the deal
in should 18 pears.

The bill providing saluries for county efficers in place
of the fees they now receive, ought to have been pissed
last session, and as the Constitution commands the Legsladars to pass such a measure. If cannot well be longer
defayed. The Judicial Solary bill, which full d hat Winier, will also be prolyed and will probably go through.
Bestday the bears and we she longer
defayed. The Judicial Solary bill, which full d hat Winier, will also be prolyed and will probably go through.
Bestday to Prifary of eyery week that I far heart MonThursday or Prifary of syery week that I far heart Monthay, the session will doubtless be prolonged until March
or April. All the Lexessary business could enady by the
events and the session of the consequence of the case of the care of the care a disposition
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of the feet of the care of the care of the care taxes in 1873;—the Democrats refused to allow the sink-

or April. All the Processity business could easily be des labeled in four or live were if there were a disposition on the part of members to be reasonably unistricus.

ANSWERS IN BROOKLYN BING SUIFS.

THE REMPSIEAD DESERVOIR CASE-KINGSLEY AND REENEY'S BID-CHARGES OF COLLUSION DENIED -FOWLER'S INDICTMENT.

The answers of the officials and contractors Associated the best and by the Tax payers' Association through John E. Parsons, acting for the Attorney General, are positive and direct dentals of the material allegations contained in the complaints served on Dec. 21, 1875. The answer of Kingsley & Keeney was submitted on saturday, accompanied by a notice that a motion would be made to transfer the suits to Brooklyn. Mr. Lowber filed his answers in the two suits on Friday. Mr. Powice's nowwers are deferred until after he is arrest of the motion to cleaner the venue, an exten-ion of thus having been greated on that matter.

In the answer of Kingsley and Keeney in the Reacryott suit, notice of the issues of fact are of a very marked suit, none of the basics of har the first hid by character. The complaint alleged that the first hid by them exposited \$1.377,400, that it was subsequently reduced to \$1,301,125 in order to be made less than a tod by a rival contractor, and that later atill it was roduced to \$1,101,181 18, which sum had been paid to Kingsley and Knemy. The answer deales that the origiand fell the brother his facilities way is for you to go and bil was ever the maximum sine accord, learing if to and fell the brother his facilities way the larger than alone, and for to do northing before you do that. Don't put it defendants, and that it was the lowest; while it is further claimed that the sam finally paid them was not named in \$57,000. The complaint is alleged to be faulty further in claiming that the Water Board was composed at all times ensed with ! "When the offense is streamy public and asstated of Powler, Lowber, and Blus. The defendants deny operious, and is of such a character as to be intamous that the reservoir could have been built for \$156,125 less than they received. This is the difference between what they got and William Beard's subsequent estimate. All the allogations of columion—which formed the main part and most serious charges of the complaint—the charge that they inflaenced the Legislature or Alderson, that the Water Board drew off the water from the site at public expense in the contractors' interest, the alleged collusion with other bidders, by which they were to bid higher than Kongsley & Kremey, and, in short, all assertions that there was corrupt barg stains, are specifically denied. It is admitted final the Board did not observed for hids, but it is claimed by the defendants that they

were not required by the law to do so, and that invita-tions were extended in every direction. Mr. Lewier's answer in the Hempstead Reservoir suit s aborrer, but covers the same points. In the Third Avenue sewer case he makes a general admission of the fact that Van Winkle, the first contractor, was dismissed, and Keeney employed, but denies that Van Winkle performed his part of the contract faithfully, or that there

was any collision by which it was given to Keeney.

No reply has been treetved by District-Attorney Britton
to his request to Attorney-General Fairchild that he
assume the prosecution of Commissioner Fowler. Mr.
Fairchild is absent from Albany at Buffalo, but a reply is promised at an early date. The Ring papers in Bro meantirue dimoonee Mr. Britton for his action in this matter, and it is understood that a bitter teeling exists on the part of Mr. Fowler and his friends against the Distriat-Attorney. It is understood that the members of the Tax Payers' Association have resolved to send to Allmay and ask the Attorney General to extend to Mr. Parsons control of the criminal suits already begun and others contemplated by them.

SHIP CAULKERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES. It is hoped that the caulkers and their emplayers will come to an understanding this afternoon of to-morrow. Neither are in condition to endure a strike and the contkers, it is believed, are already suffering some what from privation. Work has been done on less than half a dozen vessels during the week, and that by appren-tives, of whom there are few, or in certain yards where a small body of men have been employed at the old wages, \$4 per day. Several vessels are waiting to go into dock, and several others unable to wait, and which were aiready in dock, have been patched up and lowered. Many society men are in favor of going to work, but a larger number appear empetion of going to work, but a larger number appear empetion of going to work, but They are districted of the argument of their composes that reduced wages would cause them to compose more successfully with the suburban ducks. They say the previous experience does not sustain this argument, and that behalves, tily cantious have always been beld superior to suburban workmen, and will do almost as much again work in a day.

SUICIDE FROM PARIS GREEN.

Stephen F. Collins, a harness maker, of No. 532 Willoughby are. Brooklyn, committed suicide yesterday by taking a quantity of parts green. He became intoxicated on New Year's Day. and continued to drink more or less until Wednes Then he went home and became very metanchely. His parents were much distressed by his conduct, and implored him to reform. He acknowleded that conduct, and improved aim to reform. He acknowledge to the he had disgraced his family, and promised to give up drinking. On Saturday he found some parisoner, which was kept in the noise for the purpose of killing wirms, took some, and died from its effects at 3 orlect version, took some, and died from its effects at 3 orlect versionally receiving. He was a single man and 32 years of age.

"Please accept a lock of my hair," said an old backete to a wittow, handing her a large cart, "or, you had be a give the whola will." "Madame, you are the proposed." "Model, considering that your teem as perceived."